(b) whether it is also a fact that the Research Assistants (Homoeopathy) who are in the scale of pay of Rs. 1400-2300 are not entitled to the revised N.P.A.;

(c) if so, whether the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has proposed to Government that the N.P.A. of Research Assistans (Homoeopathy) may also be revised suitably; and

(d) if so, when the proposal was made and what is the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal was received in May, 1991 but was not agreed to.

Children worst Hit by Vehicular Pollution

4088. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Children worst hit by vehicular pollution" as reported in the Indian Express dated 22-11.92;

(b) if so, whether the pollution level in Delhi has been increasing alarmingly and even the small kids are the maximum sufferer;

(c) wheher due to poisonous gases of vehicles several ailment have developed in prople.

(d) whether Government have failed to check pollution in the capital; and

(e) what concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the air quality survey carried out by Central Pollution Control Board, the levels of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in Delhi are well within the prescribed limits, while the levels of suspended particulate matter are on the higher side... This is mainly due to natural dusty conditions and the increasing density of vehicular traffic. Small kids are sufferers because of their sensitivity Health effects are the result of multiple factors and, therefore any single factor does not have a direct relationship with morbidity.

(c) No well-designed epidemiological studies have born conducted in Delhi. However, a study on the effect of environmental pollution due to road traffic on the health of traffic policemen condoucted by the Central Road Research Institute (C.R.R.I.) New Delhi in collaboration with All Indian Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi and Traffic Police revealed that traffic policemen working constantly in adverse and extreme environmental conditions are effected, both in the short and the long run in the form of ill effects on Health and efficiency.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Steps taken to check air pollution in Delhi include the following;

(1) Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed.

(2) Standards for air polluting industries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(3) Heavily polluting industries have been directed to comply with the consent conditions on a time bound basis.

(4) Gross and mass emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

(5) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.

(6) A policy statement for abatement of pollution has been formulated.

(7) The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emissions from its buses.

(8) Delhi Administration through its Transport Department has been implementing a plan scheme 'Control of Air Pollution' from the exhaust of motor vehicles. Pollution checking facilities have been provided at various petrol pump locations and private work shops.

(9) Prosecutions have been launched against the vehicles not meeting the prescribed norms.

(10) The Government has stated a programme of running battery powered buses so as to minimise vehicular pollution in congested areas.

Population of lions

4089. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of lions in 1980 and 1990;

(b) the sanctuary-wise and state-wise lion population as at the end of 1992; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to protect and preserve the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The census of lions is carried out periodically. As per census carried out in 1979 and 1990 the population of Lions in forests was 205 and 284 respectively. In India the lions are found only in Gir Forests of Gujarat.

(c) The steps taken to protect and preserve the endangered species are as under:

(i) The Government of India has totally banned the trade in products of Scheduled animals in India by law with the 1991 Amendment of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1982. 1972.

(ii) The Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the Gir National Park and Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for protection and conservation of Gir Lions alongwith the habitat. The amount released during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as under.—

Year	Gir National Park	Gir Wildlife Sanctuary
1990-91	0.05 lakhs	2.93 lakhs
1991-92	0.10 lakhs	7.13 lakhs
1992-93	—	0.05 lakhs

(iii) India has become a member of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and flora (CITES) in order to exercise control over the international trade on specified wildlife articles with full cooperation of other members of CITES.

(iv) 4 Regional and 3 sub-regional offices have been established by Govenrment of India in major trade|export outlets in India to check illegel traffic in wild animal products.